

Message Text

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13

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 169

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH US COMMUNITY LEADERS TO DISPEL
RUMORS

1. AS REPORTED IN VARIOUS MESSAGES, ENTIRE ISLAND HAS BECOME
A VAST RUMOR MILL AS RESULT OF VIOLENCE AND RELATED POLITICAL
EVENTS OF PAST TWO MONTHS. FOREGOING, COUPLED WITH
ACCELERATING ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN BEING CONDUCTED
BY VARIOUS LEFT-WING GROUPS, HAS ASSURED EMBASSY INUNDATED WITH
CALLS FROM AMERICANS ASKING WHETHER IT IS TRUE ENTIRE AMERICAN
COMMUNITY WOULD BE EVACUATED IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. TO DISPEL THESE AND OTHER RUMORS IN AMERICAN COMMUNITY
AMBASSADOR MET WITH KEY LEADERS COMMUNITY FEBRUARY 4. THIS
WAS FOLLOWED BY EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE ON FEBRUARY 9
DESIGNED TO REINFORCE THAT EFFORT AND SIMULTANEOUSLY COUNTER
CURRENT ALLEGATIONS THAT CIA INVOLVED IN JAMAICA'S CURRENT
DOMESTIC POLITICAL STRIFE. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT, WHICH
FRONT PAGED IN FEBRUARY 10 DAILY GLEANER AND DAILY NEWS.

3. BEGIN TEXT. IN RESPONSE TO EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN,
AMBASSADOR SUMNER GERARD MET LAST WEEK WITH A GROUP OF
AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN RESIDENT IN JAMAICA IN AN
EFFORT TO DISPEL SOME OF THE RUMORS CIRCULATING AS A
RESULT OF THE RECENT STONING OF THE AMERICAN CONSULAR
OFFICE, AND THE CURRENT SPATE OF ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA.

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4. "TO EQUATE LUDICROUS ALLEGATIONS AND RUMORS WITH OFFICIAL ATTITUDES WOULD BE A GRAVE MISTAKE," CAUTIONED THE AMBASSADOR. HE RELATED TO THE GROUP ASSURANCES HE HAD RECEIVED FROM SENIOR JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO CONDEMNED THE EFFORTS OF THOSE ATTEMPTING TO DISRUPT THE HISTORICAL JAMAICAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION.

5. RESPONDING TO OBSERVATIONS AND QUESTIONS, THE AMBASSADOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME OF THE MORE SCURRILOUS ATTACKS ON THE U.S. SEEMED TO EMANATE FROM ORGANIZATIONS CLAIMING CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT. "THIS MERITS CONCERN, BUT WE SHOULD NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF ELEVATING THE ACTS OF A FEW TO THE LEVEL OF DECLARED POLICY," WARNED AMBASSADOR GERARD.

6. AMBASSADOR GERARD CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY EMPHASIZING THAT "...ACCUSATIONS OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL POLITICS ARE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED. WE CAN BE PROUD OF OUR PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT IN OUR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH JAMAICA, AS WELL AS THE SIGNIFICANT PART WE HAVE PLAYED IN COOPERATING IN HER DEVELOPMENT. OUR CONCERN FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF JAMAICA HAS BEEN AMPLY DEMONSTRATED OVER THE YEARS SINCE HER INDEPENDENCE. RECENT SMALL EXAMPLES WERE THE SPEEDY HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO THE NEED FOR SHELTER BY THE DISPOSSESSED IN WEST KINGSTON, AND TECHNICAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE OUTBREAK OF FLOUR POISONING. THE JAMAICAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT ARE NOT FOOLED EASILY BY MALEVOLENT MISCHIEF-MAKERS. I AM SURE THEY RECOGNIZE THEIR RECIPROCAL RESPONSIBILITY, HAVE EVERY WISH TO MAINTAIN THE TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND, I AM CONFIDENT, WILL TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION". END TEXT GERARD

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